

MEINHARDT BANK  
BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN  
Racine Co.

H.A.B.S. No WIS-131

HABS  
WIS  
51-BURL,  
3-

• PHOTOGRAPHS •  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT No 28  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey  
Alexander C. Guth, District Officer  
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

HABS  
WIS.

51-BURL

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MEINHARDT BANK  
Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin

Owner. Meinhardt Family

Date of Erection. 1847

Architect. Not known

Builder. C. P. Barns

Present Condition. Good

Number of Stories. Two

Materials of Construction. Brick, metal roof

Other Existing Records. None known

Additional Data. (See following pages.)

## THE MEINHARDT BANK BUILDING.

The Meinhardt Bank Building is situated on the corner of Chestnut and Pine Streets in the city of Burlington, Wisconsin. This little structure was erected in 1847 by a Mr. C. P. Barns. It was built to serve as a bank building even in its early days. At that time the bank was located in one of the second story rooms. And ever since that day it has been used as a bank building. This makes it without doubt the oldest building of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. Back of the front rooms on the second floor which contained the bank, was a hall. Carl Schurz, who after leaving Wisconsin attained fame as a statesman and cabinet member, spoke in this hall at one time. Another one of the second story offices was occupied by a Dr. Edward G. Dyer. This physician was an avowed abolition leader and was instrumental in freeing a number of slaves who fled thru this territory by way of the "underground railroad" as far back as 1843.

The structure has been remodelled but little. It has been in appreciative hands all these years with the result that it retains its old time air. As bank lobbies and interiors go today they are high and airy rooms. This little structure contains a lobby which is a very personal sort of room. It is extremely low, being but eight feet six inches in height. The walls are hung with old time steel engravings with a mellowed tone to them. Standing in one corner of the room is an

immense ivy which has sent its vines into every corner of the room and over the pictures besides. It is indeed a typical old counting house of another day.

The placing of the vaults is unique and attention is called to the same. The silhouette of the outside walls is extremely interesting. This treatment it is recalled, is characteristic of many of the structures found in Maryland and Virginia. The iron rail on the vault extension is not part of the original building. Large plate glass windows now take the place of the small paned windows which one time fronted on the main street. Today the bank occupies the entire first story and the second floor is given over to offices. The building has been in the hands of the Meinhardt family since 1880.

  
District Officer

*Reviewed 1934, H.C.F.*